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COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 191st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 5 November 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION (A/AC.183/1992/CRP.2/Rev.1)

2. Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/AC.183/1992/CRP.2/Rev.1), said that the draft had been the object of thorough consideration by the Working Group at its meeting held on 26 October 1992. In accordance with established practice, the annexes, listed in the table of contents, would consist of the original recommendations of the Committee and the recommendations and declarations adopted by participants in regional seminars and non-governmental organization meetings and symposia, preceded by a brief factual introduction. Since those documents were already known to the Committee, they had not been circulated again.

3. Briefly summarizing the contents of the report, he said that the main body of the report was in chapter IV, which gave an account of the action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights in implementation of their respective mandates. Chapter VI contained the Committee's recommendations, which had been drafted taking into account recent developments. He trusted that the report could be adopted by the Committee at the current meeting for submission to the General Assembly as soon as possible.

4. The draft report was adopted chapter by chapter and as a whole.

OTHER MATTERS

5. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) said that in the year since the launching of the Middle East peace process in Madrid no significant results had been achieved. The Palestinian leadership had addressed messages to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation, who were custodians of the peace process, in which it had called attention to the need for a new impetus to the peace process. Also, in the absence of progress, it was important to ensure that the United Nations continued to discharge its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

6. The recent invitation to the Secretary-General to participate officially in the meetings of the multilateral committees, which were part of the Middle East peace process, was a welcome development. There was a need, however, for greater participation by the United Nations not only in the multilateral committees but also in bilateral talks and in any other arrangements which might emerge.

(Mr. Al-Kidwa, Observer, Palestine)

7. When the Secretary-General had requested his views on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/75 concerning an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, he had replied that the position of the General Assembly on the need for an International Peace Conference was correct and still represented the most effective means of achieving peace in the Middle East. While the Palestinian leadership was disappointed that the proposed Conference had not yet been convened, it would continue to support the current peace process, provided that the principles set forth in resolution 46/75 were included in any final settlement. Moreover, in view of the complex situation in the Middle East, it still held the view that an International Peace Conference should be held at a later stage. That view was similar to the position adopted on the matter by the Non-Aligned Movement at its recent summit meeting in Indonesia.

8. He wished to appeal to the members of the Committee to continue at the current session to support the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine. As Chairman of the Arab Group of the Whole for November, he would welcome the ideas and suggestions of representatives of other geographical groups.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee was ready to support not only the Palestinians in general but also the work at the United Nations of the Observer for Palestine. While the Secretary-General had indicated his support for the international peace process, the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East would still be a welcome development. The reply of the Observer for Palestine to the letter from the Secretary-General fully reflected the views that the Committee itself would have expressed on the matter. He hoped, lastly, that the appeal by the Observer for Palestine for support for his work at the United Nations would not go unheeded.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.